

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 are pending. By this Amendment, the title, the specification, and claim 8 are amended, and claims 7 and 10-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-6 are allowed, and that claims 8-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 8 should be in condition for allowance, along with claim 9, which depends therefrom.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), alleging that the drawings fail to show features of claim 10. By this Amendment, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the objection is obviated and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to the specification because of an informality. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending the specification. No new matter is added. Accordingly, the objection is obviated and should be withdrawn.

Serial No. 10/825,366
Reply to Office Action dated September 21, 2004

Docket No. K-0238A.02

The Office Action objected to the title, as allegedly insufficiently descriptive. The title has been amended. Accordingly, the objection is obviated and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to the specification, as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of claim 10. By this Amendment, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the objection is obviated and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takada, Japanese Patent No. 11260264A; rejected claims 7, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,742,122 (hereinafter "Amemiya '122"); and rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya '122, and further in view of Amemiya, U.S. Patent No. 6,525,470. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 10-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

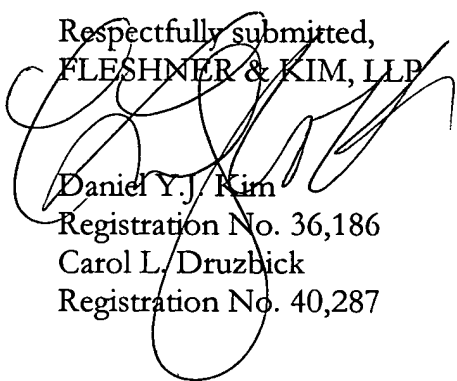
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 10/825,366
Reply to Office Action dated September 21, 2004

Docket No. K-0238A.02

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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